



PETs, POTs, and Pitfalls



Rethinking the Protection of Users against Machine Learning

Carmela Troncoso

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Security and Privacy Engineering Lab

The machine learning revolution

GOOGLE ADS

Putting machine learning into the hands of every advertiser



Jerry Dischler
Vice President, Product
Management

Published Jul 10, 2018

The ways people get things done are constantly changing, from finding the closest coffee shop to organizing family photos. Earlier this year, we explored how machine learning is being used to improve our consumer products and help people get stuff done.

In just one hour, we'll share how we're helping marketers unlock more opportunities for their businesses with our largest deployment of machine learning in ads. We'll explore how this technology works in our products and why it's key to delivering the helpful and frictionless experiences consumers expect from brands.

[Join us live today at 9am PT \(12pm ET\).](#)

Deliver more relevance with responsive



Unshackled algorithms

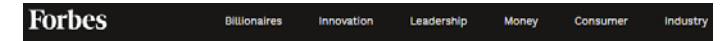
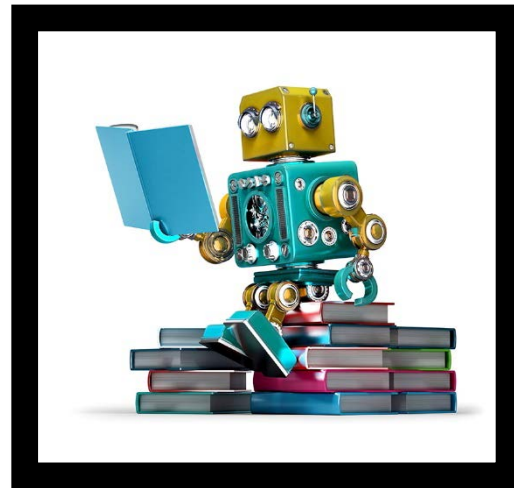
Machine-learning promises to shake up large swathes of finance

In fields from trading to credit assessment to fraud prevention, machine-learning is advancing



Print edition | Finance and economics
May 25th 2017

MACHINE-LEARNING is beginning to shake up finance. A subset of artificial intelligence (AI) that excels at finding patterns and making



44,707 views | Jun 11, 2018, 12:42am

10 Ways Machine Learning Is Revolutionizing Supply Chain Management

 Louis Columbus Contributor



SHUTTERSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Bottom line: Machine learning makes it possible to discover patterns in supply chain data by relying on algorithms that quickly pinpoint the most influential factors to a supply networks' success, while constantly learning in the process.



The accelerating power of machine learning in diagnosing disease and in sorting and classifying health data will empower physicians and speed-up decision making in the clinic.

This Collection is updated when relevant new content is published. Content appears in reverse chronological order. See all Collections from Nature Biomedical Engineering.

Research

The machine learning tsunami

Privacy

Social
Justice



The ML tsunami on privacy

Privacy

Predictim Claims Its AI Can Flag 'Risky' Babysitters. So I Tried It on the People Who Watch My Kids.

Brief Communication | [OPEN](#) | Published: 23 April 2018

Detecting neurodegenerative disorders from web search signals

Ryen W. White, P. Murali Doraiswamy & Eric Horvitz

npj Digital Medicine 1, Article number: 8 (2018) | [Download Citation](#)

Abstract

2,697 views | May 30, 2018, 09:01am

Combining AI and Location Intelligence to Predict Market Demand



Cindy Elliott Contributor
Esri Contributor Group

AI can predict your future tweets by looking at your friends' accounts

A new study shows how machine-learning methods could examine your friends' past tweets to accurately predict your future behavior online.

22 January, 2019

Using deep learning and Google Street View to estimate the demographic makeup of neighborhoods across the United States

Timnit Gebru, Jonathan Krause, Yilun Wang, Duyun Chen, Jia Deng, Erez Lieberman Aiden, and Li Fei-Fei

PNAS December 12, 2017 114 (50) 13108-13113; published ahead of print November 28, 2017
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1700035114>

Edited by Kenneth W. Wachter, University of California, Berkeley, CA, and approved October 16, 2017 (received for review January 4, 2017)

Article

Figures & SI

Info & Metrics

PDF

Significance

We show that socioeconomic attributes such as income, race, education, and voting patterns can be inferred from cars detected in Google Street View images using deep learning. Our model works by discovering associations between cars and people. For example, if the number of sedans in a city is higher than the number of pickup trucks, that city is likely to vote for a Democrat in the next presidential election (88% chance); if not, then the city is likely to vote for a Republican (82% chance).

Facebook Filed A Patent To Predict Your Household's Demographics Based On Family Photos

Facebook's proposed technology would analyze your #wifey tags, shared IP addresses, and photos to predict whom you live with.

Nicole Nguyen
BuzzFeed News Reporter

Last updated on November 16, 2018, at 2:22 p.m. ET
Posted on November 15, 2018, at 7:04 p.m. ET

On the Feasibility of Internet-Scale Author Identification

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Abstract—We study techniques for identifying an anonymous author via linguistic stylometry, i.e., comparing the writing style against a corpus of texts of known authorship. We experimentally demonstrate the effectiveness of our techniques with as many as 100,000 candidate authors. Given the increasing availability of writing samples online, our result has serious implications for anonymity and free speech — an anonymous blogger or whistleblower may be unmasked unless they take steps to obfuscate their writing style.

Yet a right to anonymity is meaningless if an anonymous author's identity can be unmasked by adversaries. There have been many attempts to legally force service providers and other intermediaries to reveal the identity of anonymous users. While sometimes successful [5; 6], in most cases courts have upheld a right to anonymous speech [7; 8]. All of these efforts have relied on the author revealing their name or IP address to a service provider, who may in turn

Attacks are not new... but the adversary is

Attacks
on privacy



Inference Attacks on Location Tracks

John Krumm

Microsoft Research
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA, USA
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Abstract. Although the privacy threats and countermeasures associated with location data are well known, there has not been a thorough experiment to assess the effectiveness of either. We examine location data gathered from volunteer subjects to quantify how well four different algorithms can identify the subjects' home locations and then their identities using a freely available, reprogrammable Web search engine. Our procedure can identify at least a small

Protecting Location Privacy: Optimal Strategy against Localization Attacks

Reza Shokri¹, George Theodorakopoulos², Carmela Troncoso³,
Jean-Pierre Hubaux¹, and Jean-Yves Le Boudec¹

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²ESAT/COSIC, K.U.Leuven, Leuven-Heverlee, Belgium,
³School of Computer Science and Informatics, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK
¹firstname.lastname@epfl.ch, ²g.theodorakopoulos@cs.cardiff.ac.uk,
³carmela.troncoso@esat.kuleuven.be

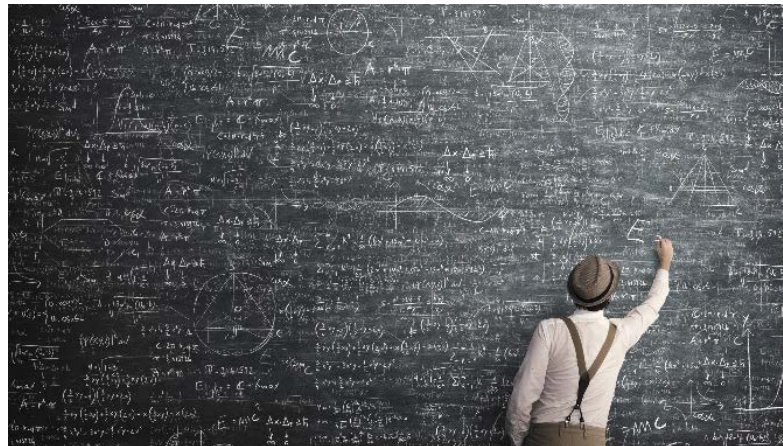
ABSTRACT

The mainstream approach to protecting the location-privacy of mobile users in location-based services (LBSs) is to alter the users' actual locations in order to reduce the location information exposed to the service provider. The location obfuscation algorithm behind an effective location-privacy preserving mechanism (LPPM) must consider three fundamen-

1. INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of smart mobile devices with continuous connection to the Internet has fostered the development of a variety of successful location-based services (LBSs). Even though LBSs can be very useful, these benefits come at a cost of users' privacy. The whereabouts users' disclose to the service provider expose aspects of their private life that is not apparent at first, but can be inferred from the

Privacy Enhancing Technologies
PETs




Attacks are not new... but the adversary is

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Attacks

Feature name	Class	Brief description	Weight
TimeBetweenRepeatQueries	Repetition	AVG time between repeat queries	1.000000
FractionOfQueriesAreRepeats	Repetition	% of all queries that are repeat queries	0.971182
NumberOfTremorEvents	Motor	# of tremor events ^a	0.715004
AverageTremorFrequency	Motor	AVG tremor frequency in hertz (# of oscillations/time)	0.595772
FractionOfQueriesHaveSymptoms	Symptom	% of all queries with 1+ symptoms	0.457336
AgeIs50To85	Risk Factors	Inferred searcher age is 50–85 years	0.432355
FractionOfClicksAreRepeats	Repetition	% of result clicks that are repeat clicks on same result	0.341164
FractionOfQueriesHaveRiskFactors	Risk Factors	% of all queries with 1+ risk factors	0.329801
GenderIsFemale	Risk Factors	Inferred gender is female	0.313425
TotalTimeCursorMoving	Motor	Total time mouse cursor is actively moving	0.297699
NumberOfScrollEvents	Motor	# of scroll events	0.259432
NumberOfScrollEventsDownward	Motor	# of scroll events downward	0.256692
AverageScrollVelocity	Motor	AVG scrolling velocity	0.249454
MinimumCursorYCoordinate	Motor	MIN y-coordinate of mouse cursor (top of page y is 0)	0.247770
FractionOfCursorTransitionsAreDirectionChanges	Motor	% of mouse cursor transitions with direction changes ^b	0.243873
AverageCursorAcceleration	Motor	AVG acceleration of mouse cursor	0.239814
NumberOfHyperlinkClicks	Motor	# of hyperlink clicks	0.239568
AverageCursorVelocity	Motor	AVG velocity of mouse cursor	0.232418
NumberOfCursorTransitionsAreDirectedUpward	Motor	# of transitions directed upward	0.232311
TotalDistanceScrolled	Motor	Total distance scrolled	0.215000
AverageCursorXCoordinate	Motor	AVG x-coordinate of mouse cursor (left of page x is 0)	0.214955
FractionOfTimeCursorInWhiteSpace	Motor	% of time mouse cursor in white space	0.211625



?

PETs??



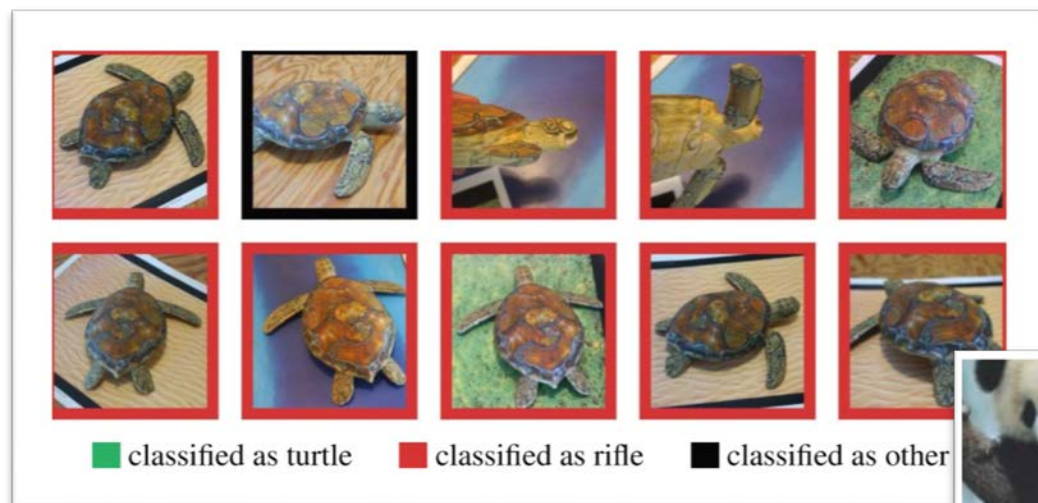


Machine Learning

GAME OF THRONES
WINTER IS COMING
for privacy

The goal is not to understand, it is to beat!

The goal is not to understand, it is to beat!



Google

adversarial examples

All

Images

Videos

News

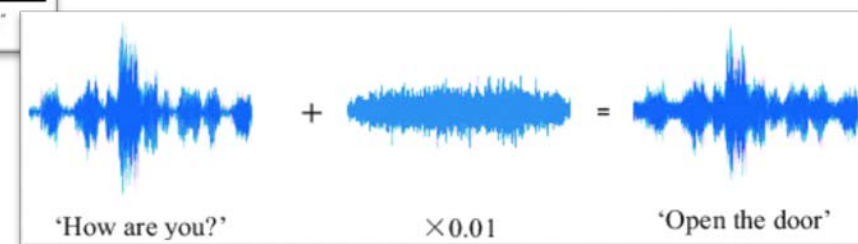
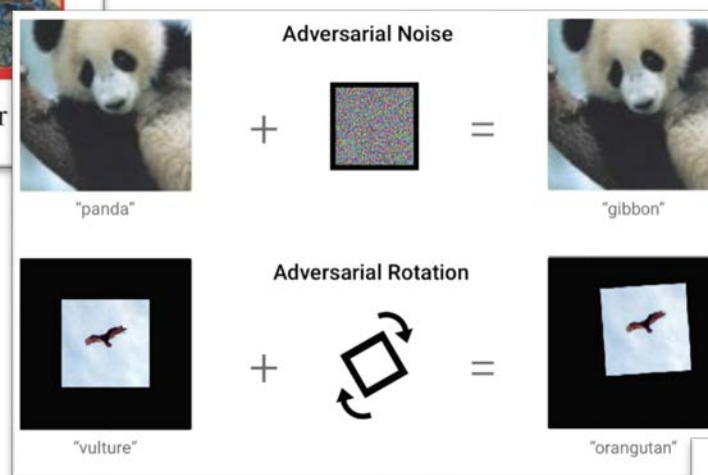
About 7'700'000 results (0.37 seconds)

Google Scholar

adversarial examples

Articles

About 202,000 results (0.03 sec)



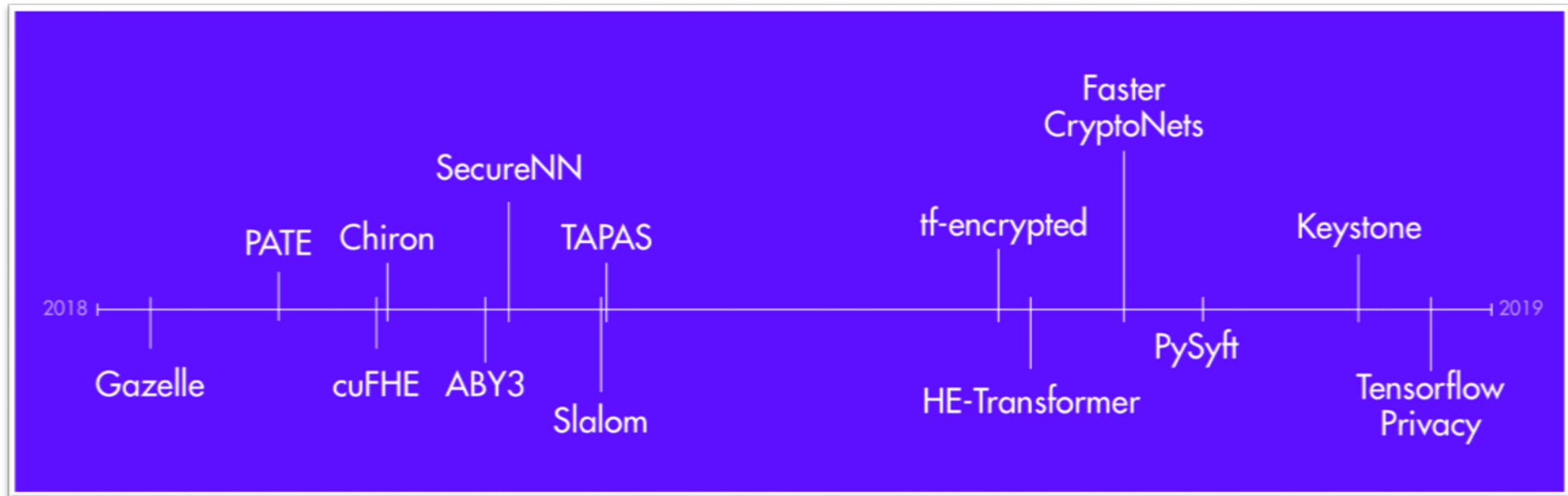
Adversarial examples are only **adversarial** when
you are the owner of the algorithm!



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you are the owner of the algorithm!

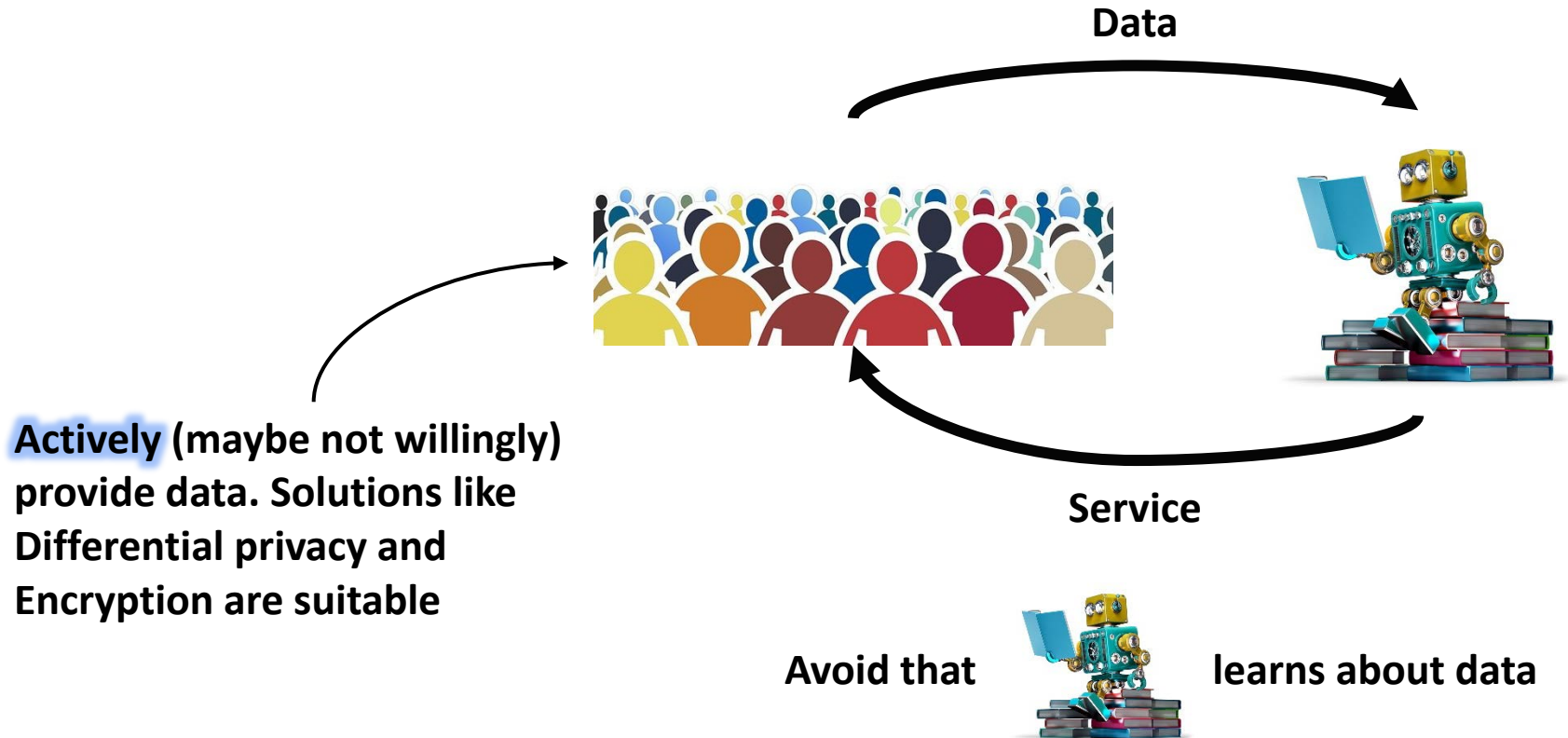


Wait! Why do we need adversarial examples if we have privacy-preserving ML!!



Machine learning as a privacy adversary

ML Privacy-oriented Literature

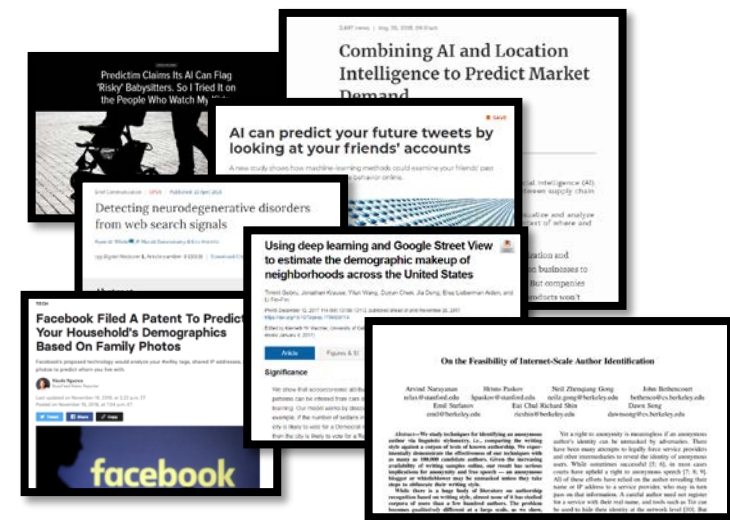
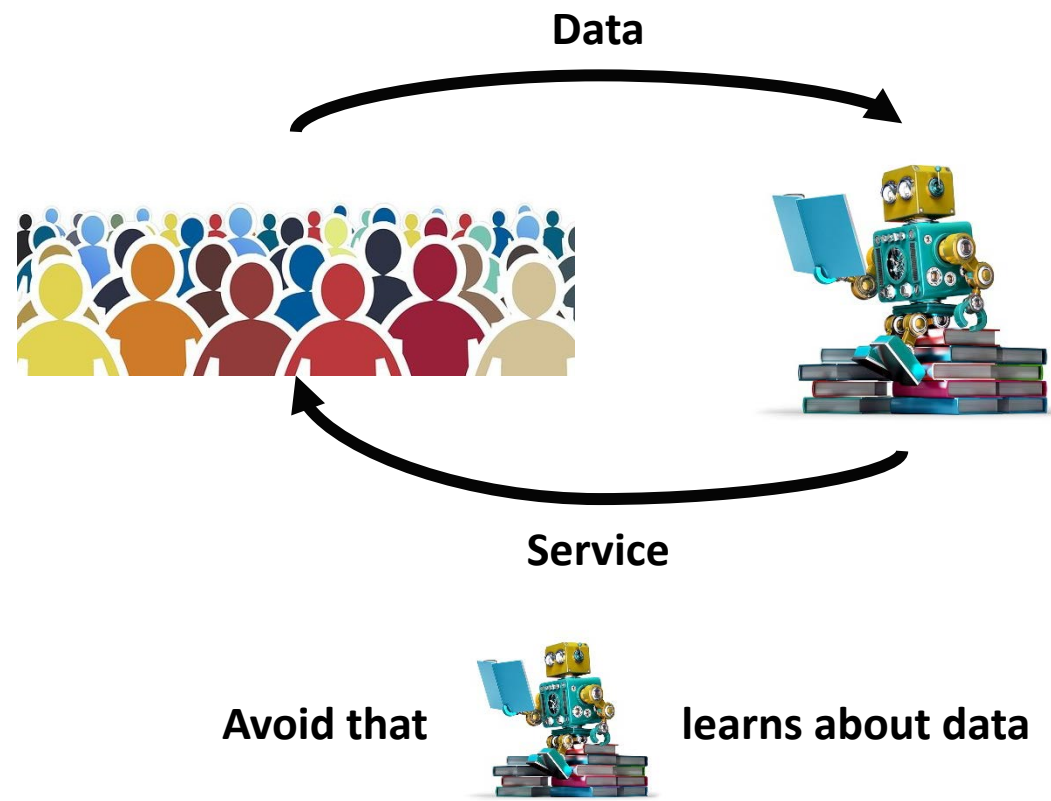


Machine learning as a privacy adversary

ML Privacy-oriented Literature

In this talk

Actively (maybe not willingly) provide data. Solutions like Differential privacy and Encryption are suitable



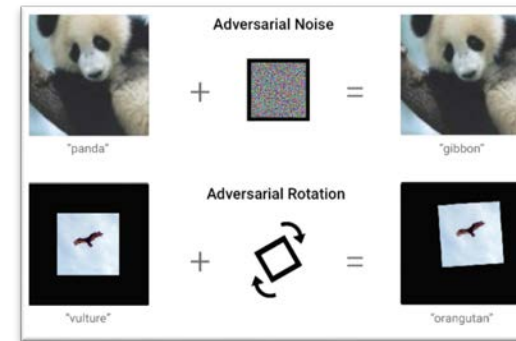
No active sharing!
Cannot count on



Adversarial examples as privacy defenses



Use ML adversarial example techniques to transform data!

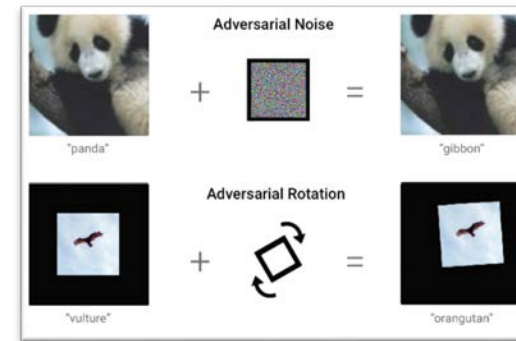


Adversarial examples as privacy defenses

Can this solve all privacy problems?

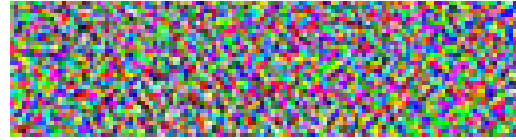
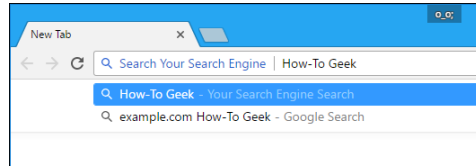


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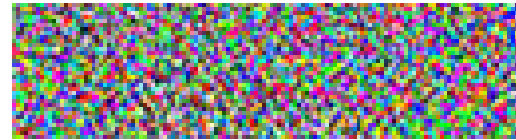
Can this solve all privacy problems?

Protect web searches from inferences



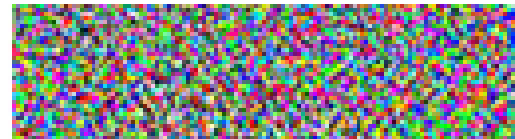
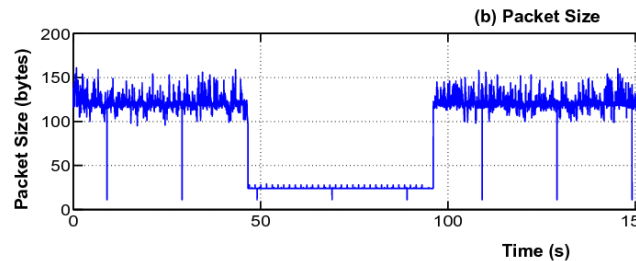
???

Protect tweets from inferences



???

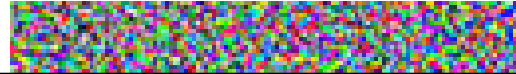
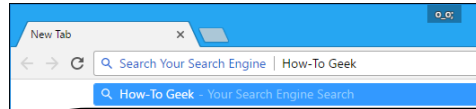
Protect traffic patterns



???

Can this solve all privacy problems?

Protect web
searches from
inferences



???

Protect
tweets from
inferences

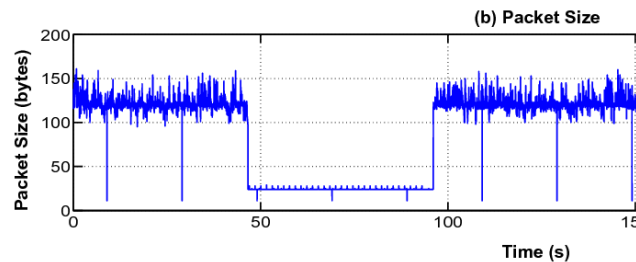
V
RE
4
10

In **privacy problems** adversarial examples belong to a **DISCRETE** and **CONSTRAINED** domain

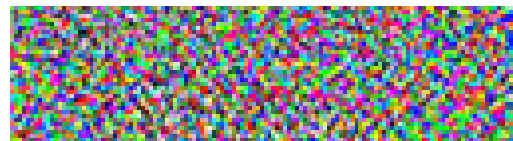
FEASIBILITY

COST

Protect
traffic
patterns



+



=

???

Nobody has thought of this?

AttriGuard: A Practical Defense Against Attribute Inference Attacks via Adversarial Machine Learning

Jinyuan Jia

ECE Department, Iowa State University
jinyuan@iastate.edu

Neil Zhenqiang Gong

ECE Department, Iowa State University
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Abstract

Users in various web and mobile applications are vulnerable to *attribute inference attacks*, in which an attacker leverages a machine learning classifier to infer a target user's private attributes (e.g., location, sexual orientation, political view) from its public data (e.g., rating scores,

mobile platforms [10, 11]. In an attribute inference attack, an attacker aims to infer a user's private attributes (e.g., location, gender, sexual orientation, and/or political view) via leveraging its public data. For instance, in social media, a user's public data could be the list of pages that the user liked on Facebook. Given these page likes, an attacker can use a machine learning classifier to

Usenix Security Symposium - 2018

Modify social network attributes to avoid inferences

Use adversarial examples (evasion attacks) to keep utility

Use a version of Jacobian-based Saliency Map Attack (JSMA)
“aware of policies” = only do feasible transformations

Nobody has thought of this?

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DE GRUYTER OPEN

Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies ... (..):1–19

PoPETS - 2019

Modify Twitter line to avoid inferences

Add, remove, replace tweets

Greedy search by importance for classifier

“Because... I was told... so much”: Linguistic Indicators of Mental Health Status on Twitter

Abstract: Recent studies have shown that machine learning can identify individuals with mental illnesses by analyzing their social media posts. Topics and words related to mental health are some of the top predictors. These findings have implications for early detection of mental illnesses. However, they also raise numerous privacy concerns. To fully evaluate the implications for privacy, we analyze the performance of different machine learning models in the absence of tweets that talk about mental illnesses. Our results show that machine learning can be used to make predictions even if the users

deviate from normal language use, and that these deviations can be used as a diagnostic tool. While early studies analyzed this relationship via patient essays and interview transcripts, recent studies have shown that similar changes in language usage can also be detected in social media posts. Moreover, more recent studies have shown that machine learning can predict the mental status of individuals through the content of their social media posts [17].

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Non-privacy constrained applications

Text:

Goal: change classification (positive to negative sentiment, change inferred topic for a post)

Malware:

Goal: change classification (from malicious to benign)

DE GRUYTER OPEN

Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies ..: .. (..):1–19

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Repeated patterns:

- **Model transformation**
- **Find new search algorithm**
e.g., Hill climbing, beam search
- **Evaluate & compare performance**

But NO systematic design method ☹

Our proposal: Evasion as a graph

Protecting users from demographic inferences

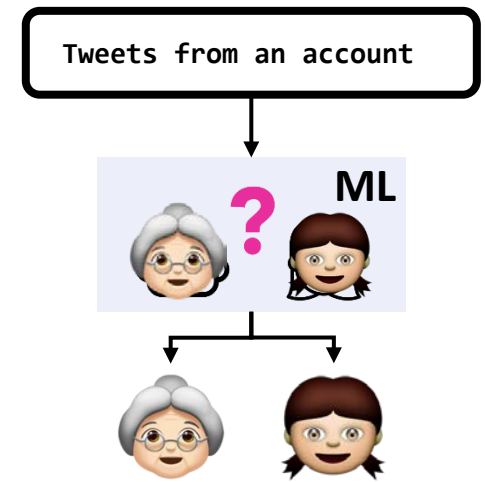
Goal change Twitter line classification regarding age

Transformations

Use synonyms ←
Introduce typos
Change punctuation

Cost

Keep the meaning!



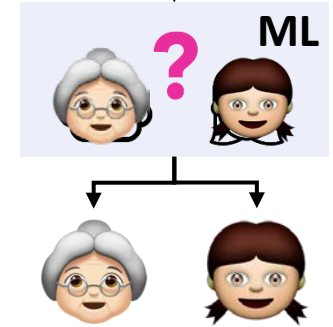
Our proposal: Evasion as a graph

Cost: keep meaning

I love Justin Bieber!

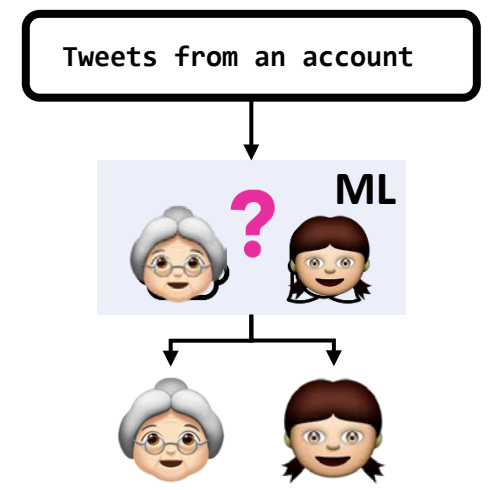
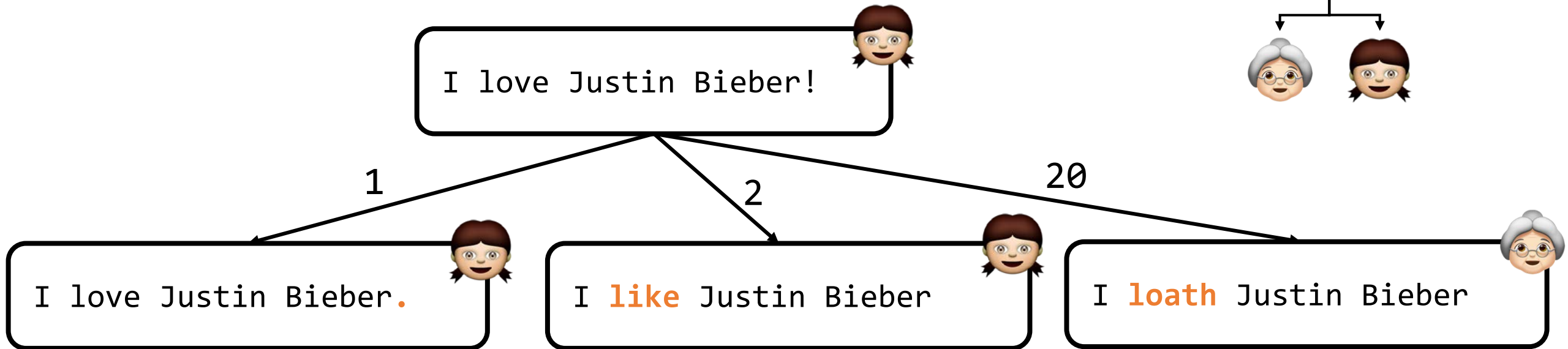


Tweets from an account



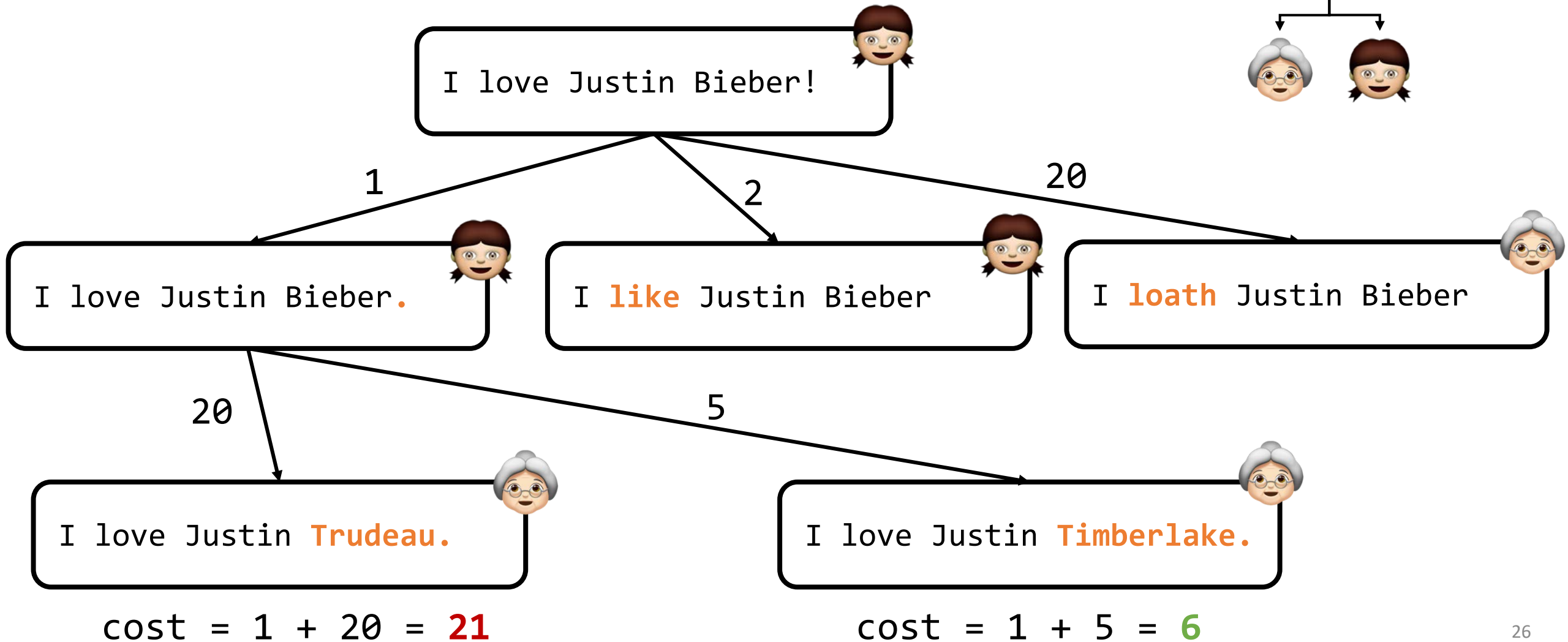
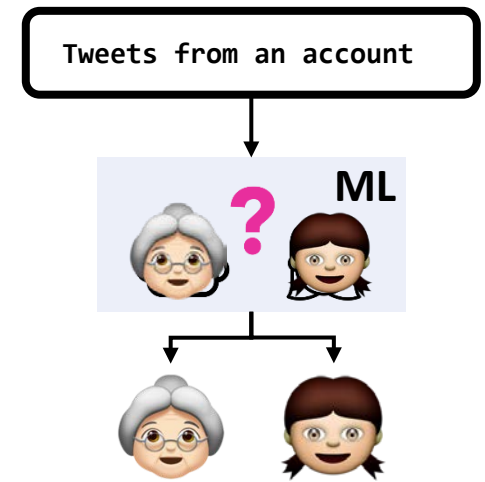
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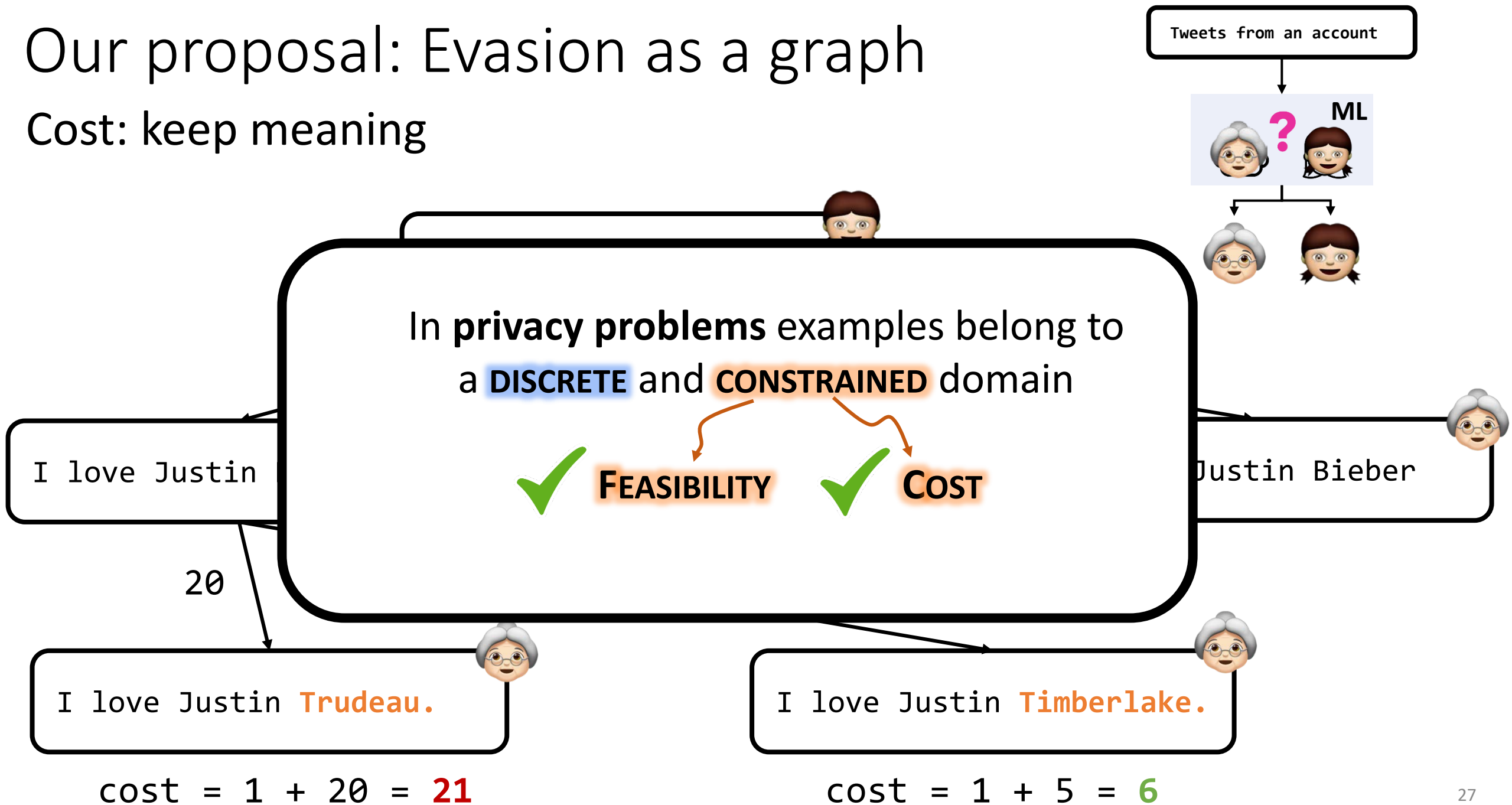
Our proposal: Evasion as a graph

Cost: keep meaning



Our proposal: Evasion as a graph

Cost: keep meaning



The graph approach comes with advantages



Enables the use of graph theory to

EFFICIENTLY find adversarial examples (A^* , beam search, hill climbing, etc)

CAPTURES most attacks in the literature! (comparison base)



Finds provable MINIMAL COST adversarial examples (A^*) if

- The discrete domain is a subset of \mathbb{R}^m

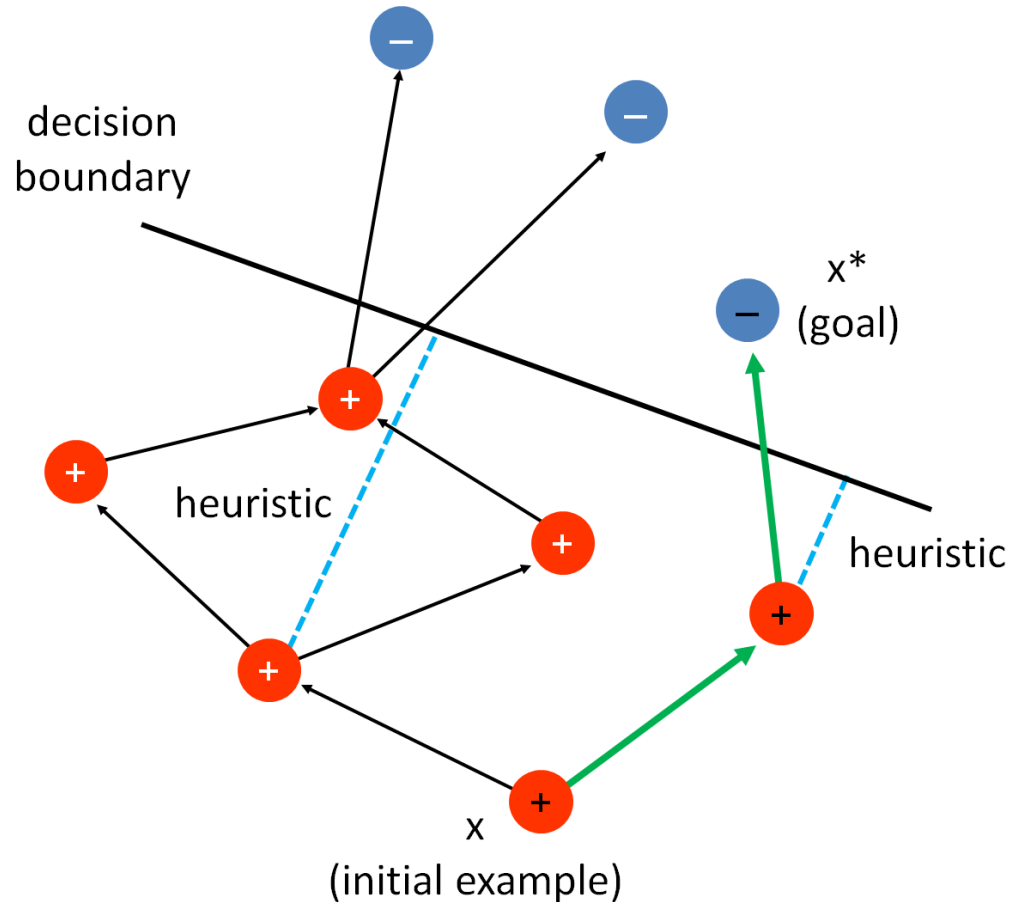
For example, categorical one-hot encoded features: $[0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0]$

- Cost of each single transformation is L^p

For example, $L^\infty([0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0], [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0]) = 1$

- We can compute pointwise robustness for the target classifier over \mathbb{R}^m

Finding minimal cost adv. examples: the concept



$$x^* = \arg \min_{x' \in \mathbb{X}} C(x, x') \text{ s.t. } \text{goal}(x') = \top,$$

$$\text{goal}(x') = \begin{cases} \top, & t = 1 \text{ and } \sigma(f(x')) > l \\ \top, & t = 0 \text{ and } \sigma(f(x')) \leq 1 - l \\ \perp, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Confidence of the example

Adversarial examples for privacy

- ✓ Provide privacy in settings where the ML model is adversarial and not cooperative
- ✓ Privacy is **CONSTRAINED** , a graphical approach can be used to
EFFICIENTLY find FEASIBLE adversarial examples
find MINIMAL COST adversarial examples
- ✓ Even if they cannot be deployed in practice, this approach provides a
BASELINE to compare defenses' efficiency

Bonus: applicable to security problems!

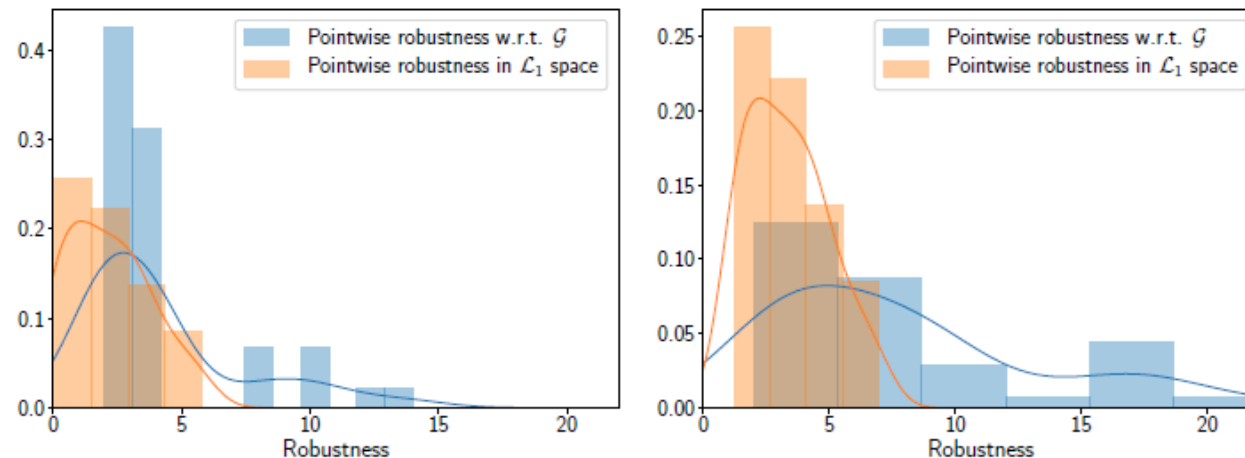
MINIMAL COST adversarial examples can become security metrics!

Cost can be associated with **RISK**

Cannot stop attacks, but can we ensure they are expensive?

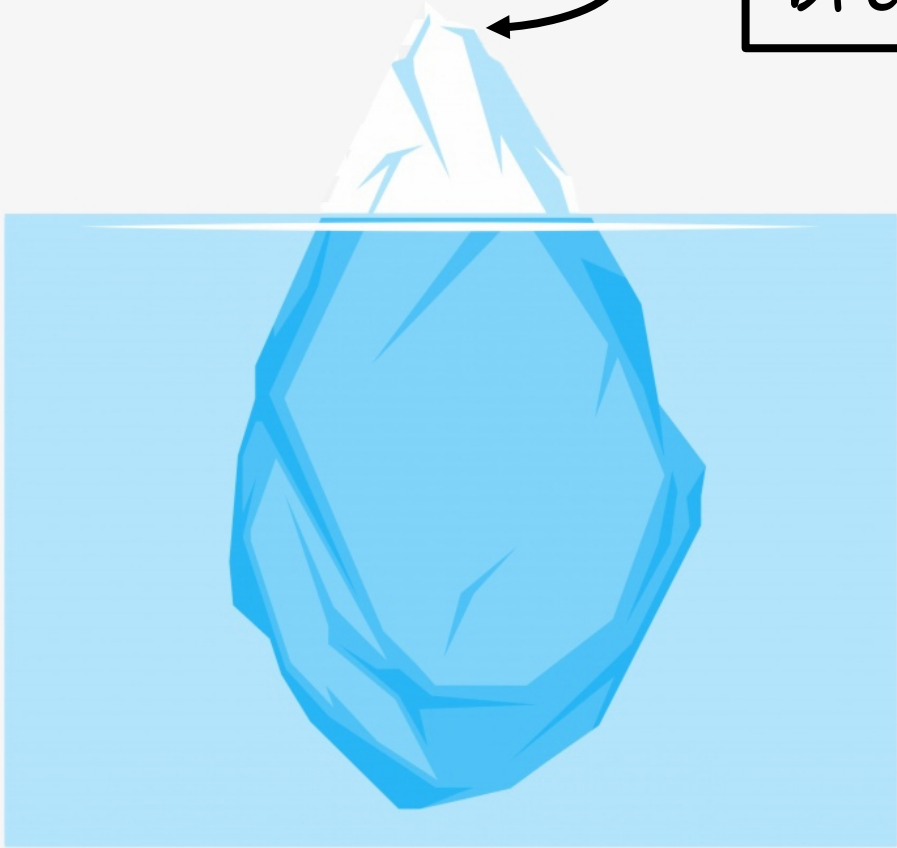
Constrained domains security

Continuous-domains approaches can be very conservative!



Only privacy is at stake?

Privacy
breaches



Only privacy is at stake?

An iceberg floating in a light blue rectangular area representing water. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, while the much larger body of the iceberg is submerged below the water line. A black arrow points from the 'Privacy breaches' box to the tip of the iceberg. A black bracket on the right side of the submerged part of the iceberg connects to the 'Data used to optimize ...' box.

Privacy
breaches

Data used
to optimize ...

Only privacy is at stake?

Privacy
breaches

Data used
to optimize ...

Prevalent use of optimization algorithms
to extract maximum economic value
from the manipulation of people's
activities and their environment



Advertisement
(e.g., Facebook ads)



Routing
(e.g., Waze)

FICOTM

Credit scoring
(e.g., FICO)

The ML tsunami on Social Justice

Social Justice

THE SCORED SOCIETY: DUE PROCESS FOR AUTOMATED PREDICTIONS

Danielle Keats Citron* & Frank Pasquale**

Abstract: Big Data is increasingly mined to rank and rate individuals. Predictive algorithms assess whether we are good credit risks, desirable employees, reliable tenants, valuable customers, and so on. These algorithms shape our opportunities and choices in housing, employment, insurance, and more. They are often opaque, lacking oversight, and based on credit history.

Exploring or Exploiting? Social and Ethical Implications of Autonomous Experimentation in AI

Sarah Bird

Solon Barocas

Kate Crawford

Fernando Diaz

Hanna Wallach

Microsoft Research
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ABSTRACT

In the field of computer science, large-scale experimentation on users is not new. However, driven by advances in artificial intelligence, novel autonomous systems for experimentation are emerging that raise complex, unanswered questions for

some users, taking a slow route might mean the trip is slightly late for work; for others, though, it might mean a trip to the hospital. Moreover, users seldom know they are part of an experiment, nor do they have a way to convey that one journey is more urgent than

Data Scores as Governance: Investigating uses of citizen scoring in public services

Project Report

Lina Dencik, Arne Hintz, Joanna Redden & Harry Warne

Navigation Apps Are Turning Quiet Neighborhoods Into Traffic Nightmares

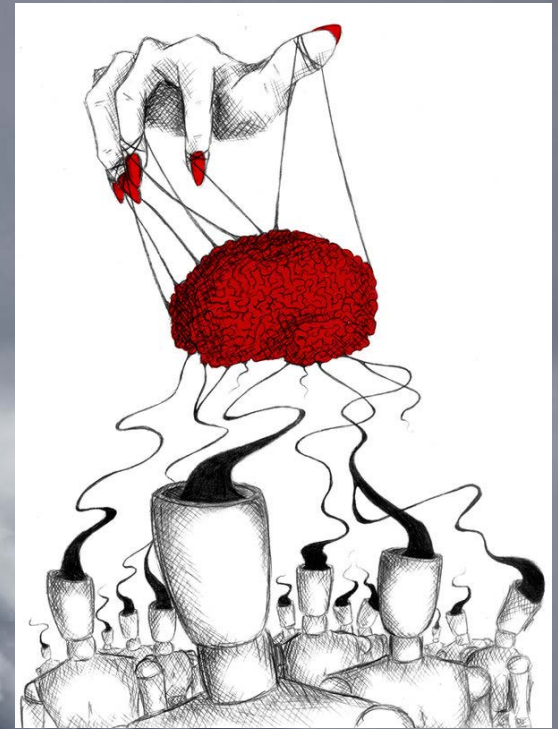
Social Sorting as a Tool for Surveillance

The female body is constantly under surveillance - in private spaces as well as in public. Surveillance is about power. It is not just about a violation of privacy, but also an issue of social sorting.

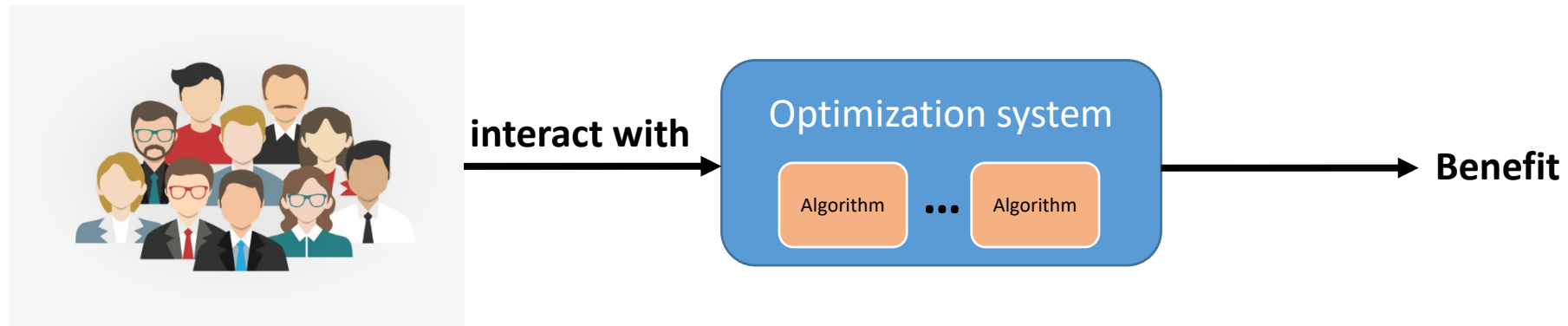
21. January 2019 by [Shmyla Khan](#)

The ML tsunami on Social Justice

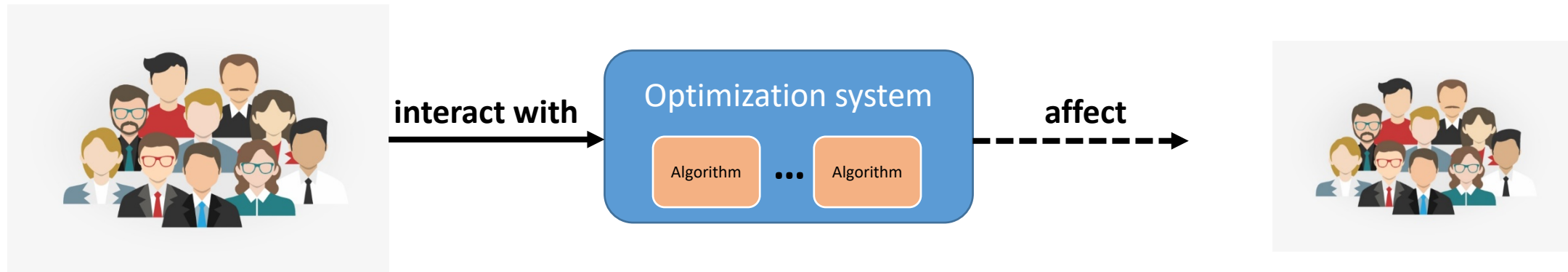
Social Justice



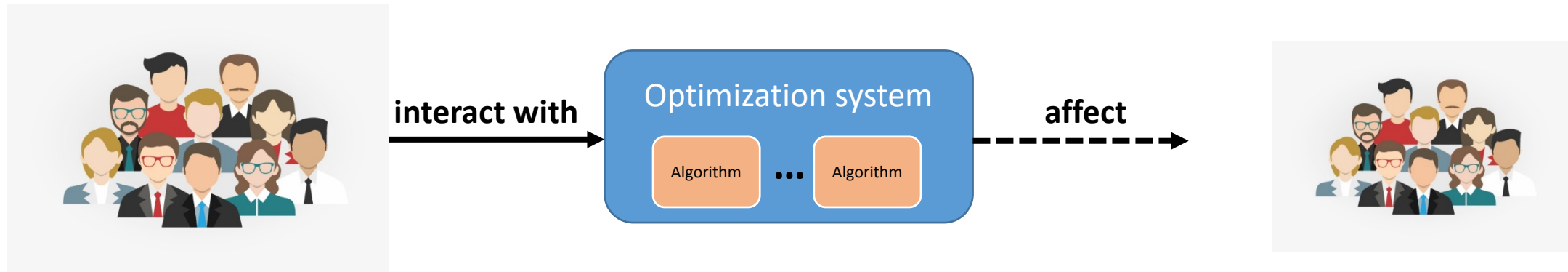
Optimization Systems



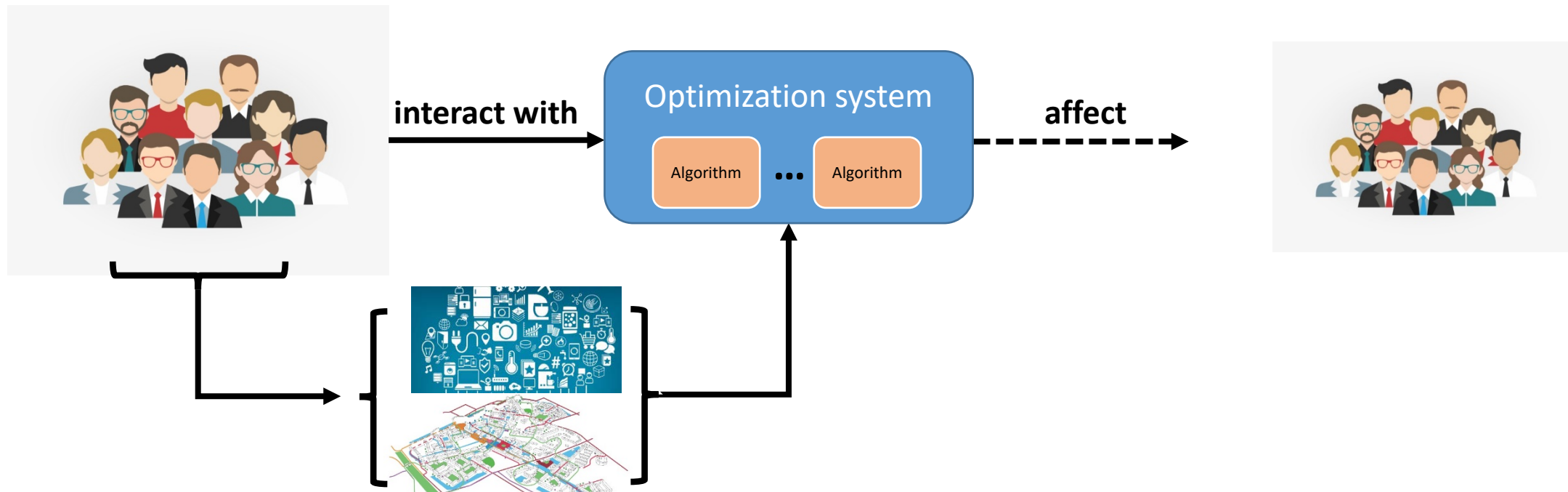
Optimization Systems



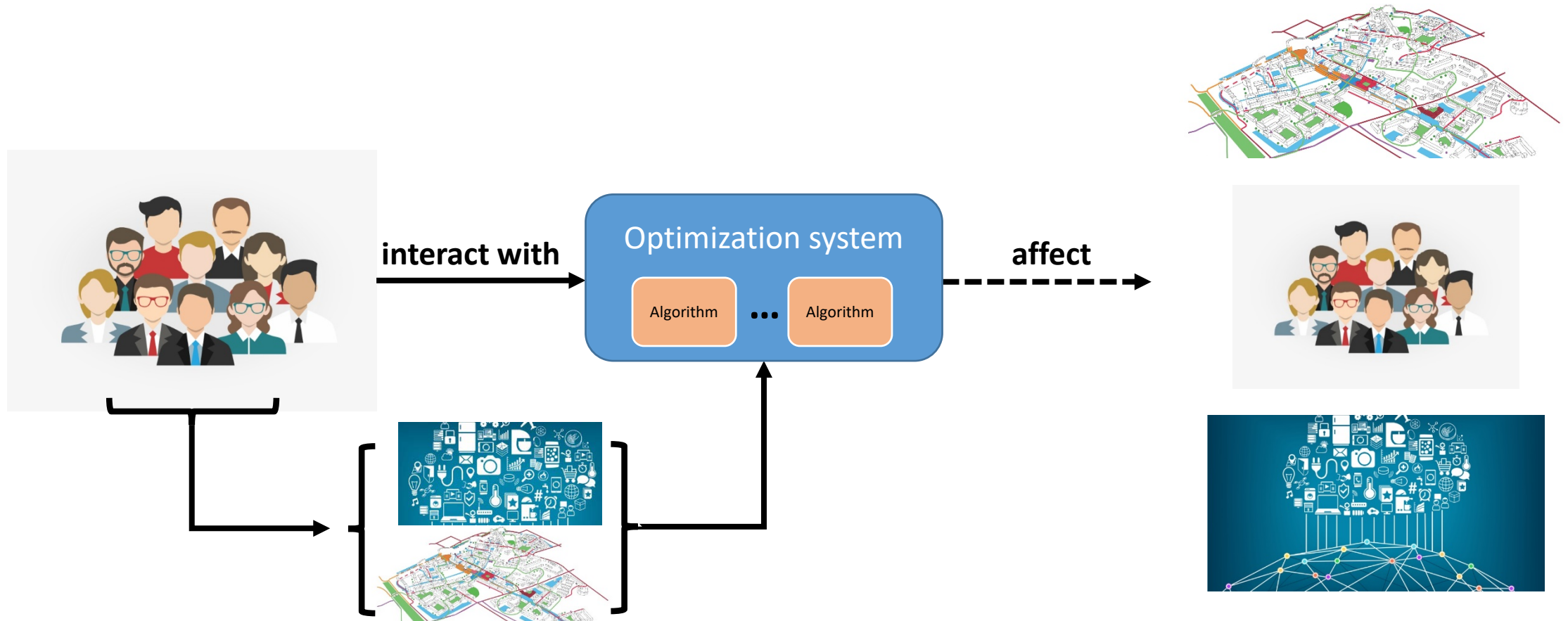
Optimization Systems



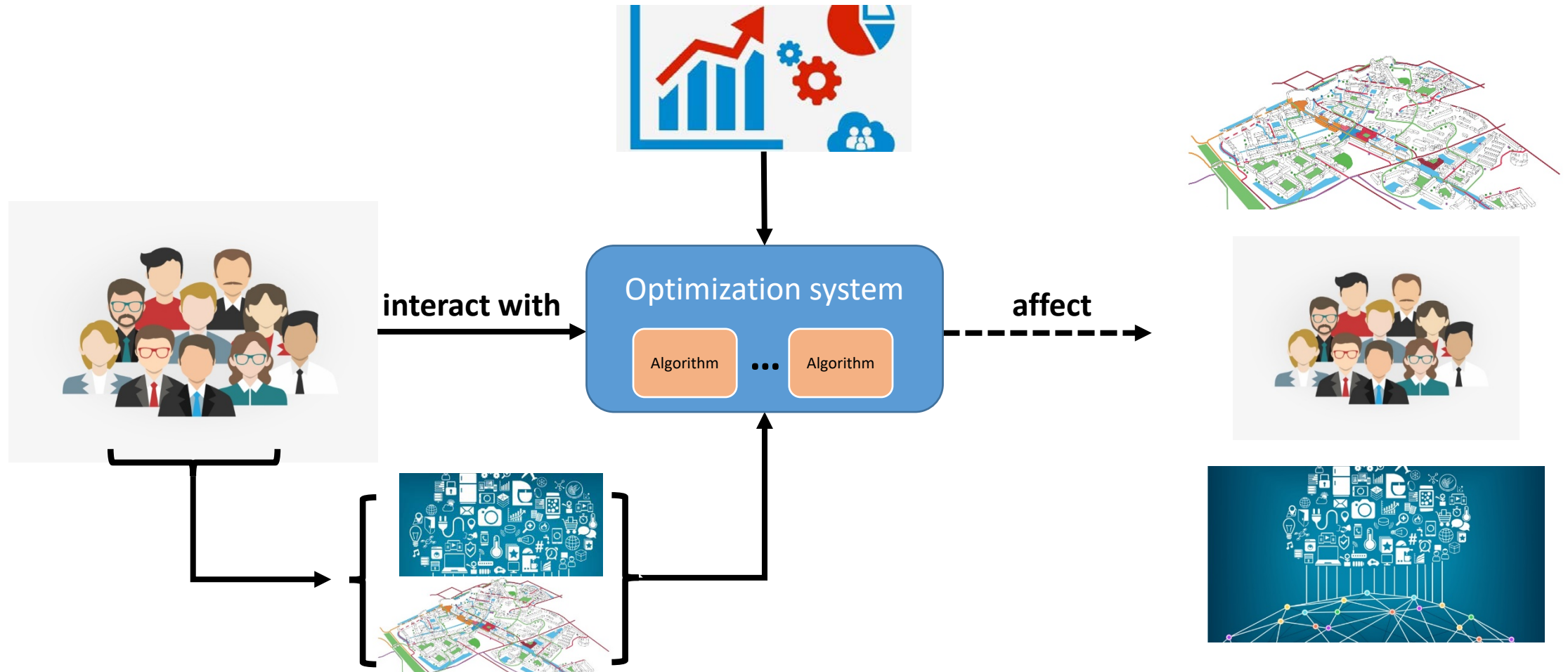
Optimization Systems



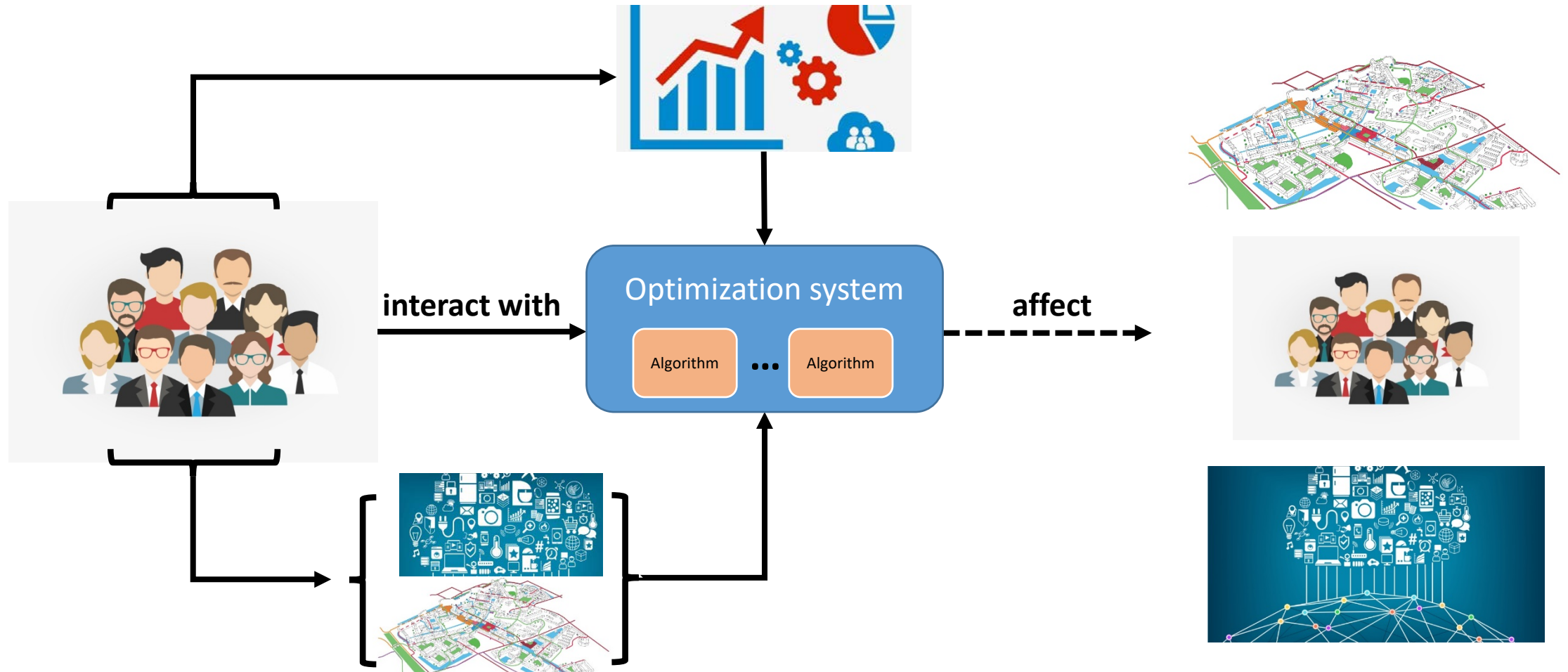
Optimization Systems



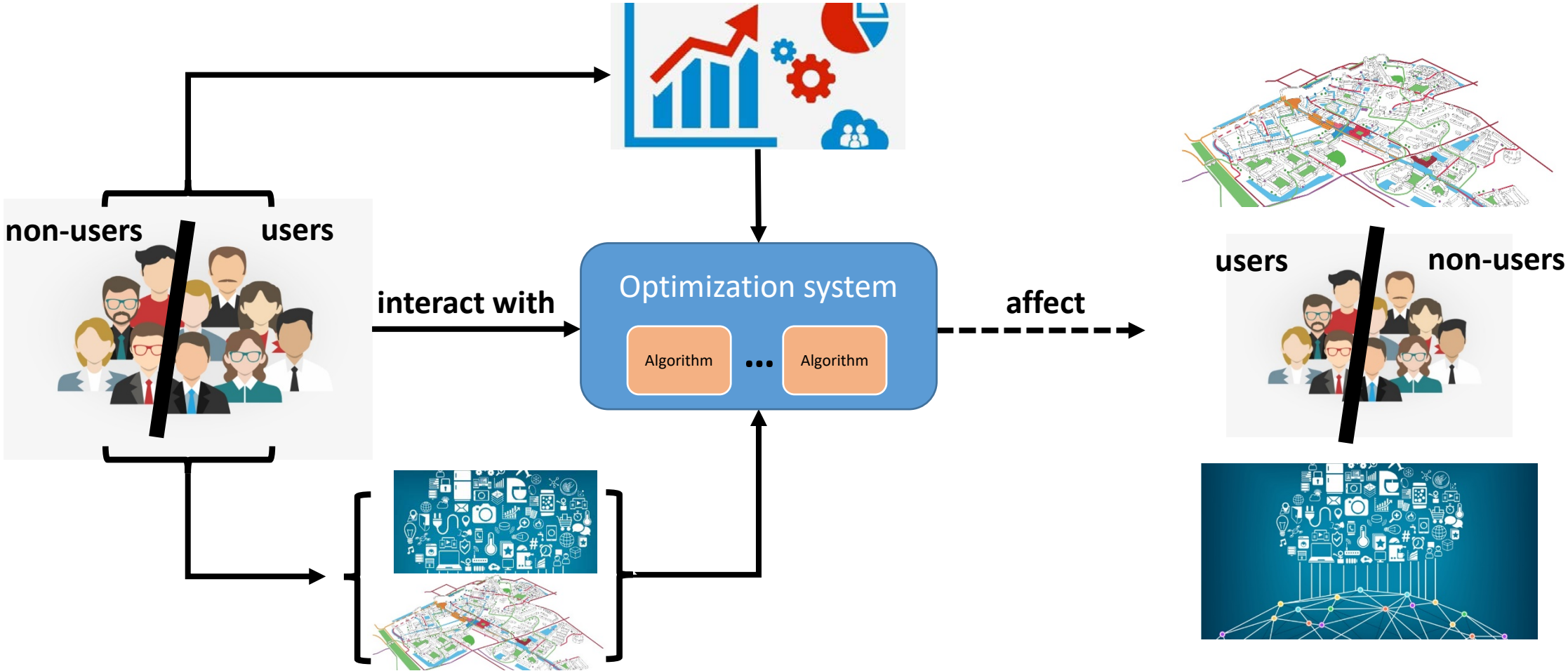
Optimization Systems



Optimization Systems

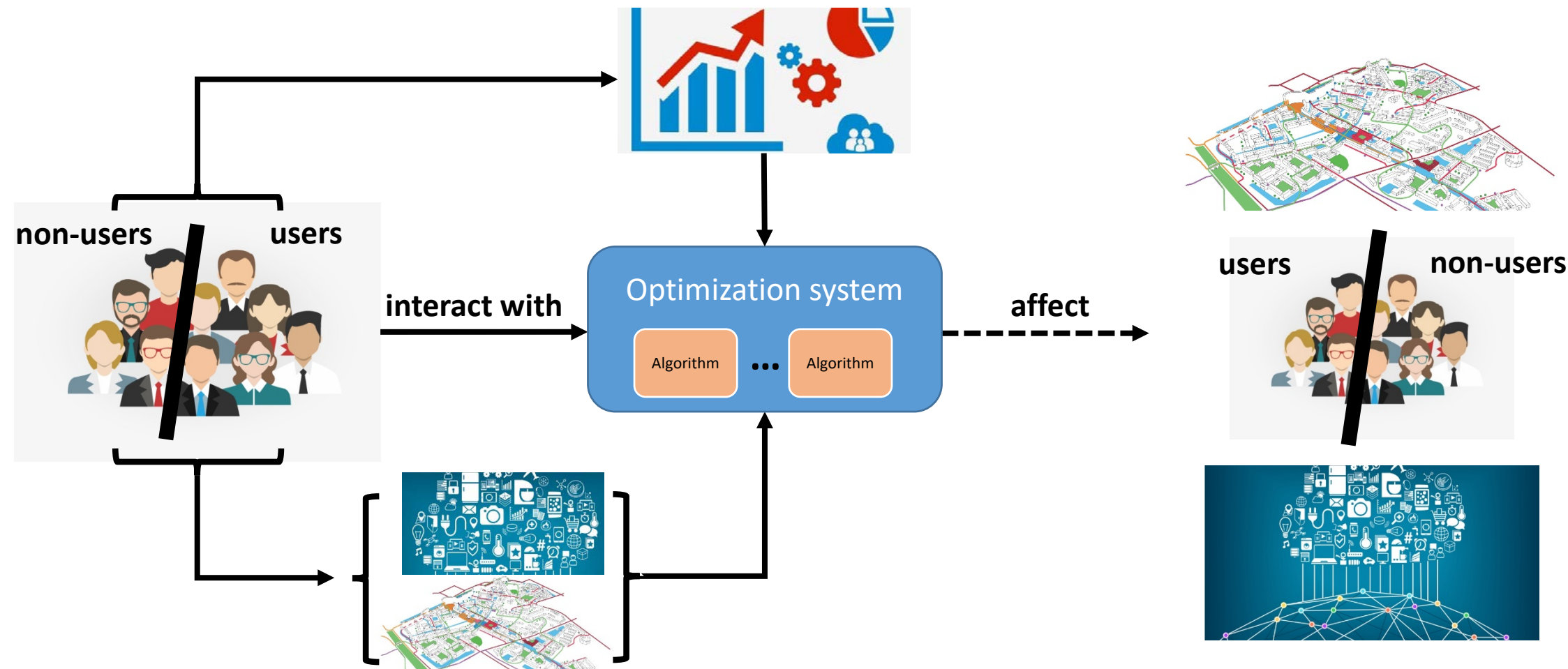


Optimization Systems



Optimization Systems

How do we avoid negative effects caused by the Optimization System?
(direct and externalities)



We have fairness research!!

“We’re creating algorithms that cause harms,
so we need to fix the algorithms”



We have fairness research!!

“We’re creating algorithms that cause harms,
so we need to fix the algorithms”

**Limited to
algorithmic bias
within a system**

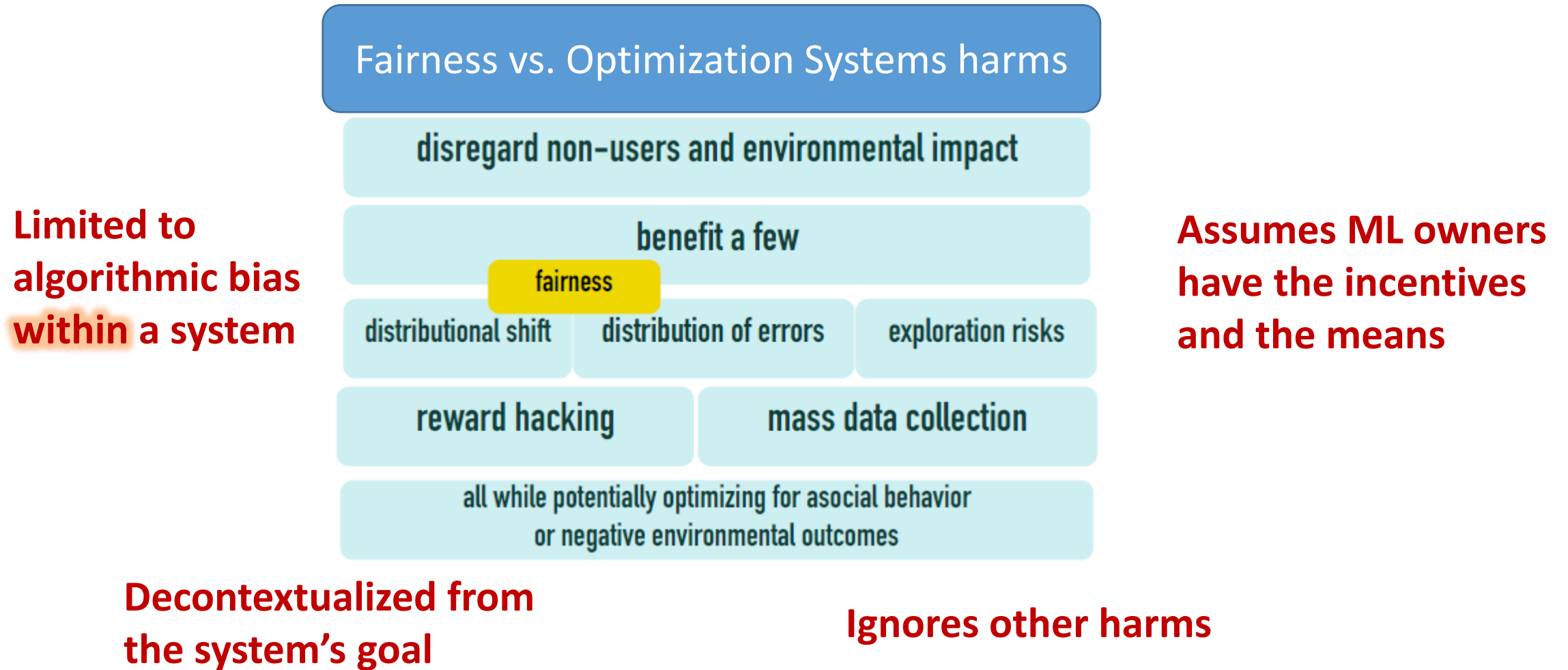


**Assumes ML owners
have the incentives
and the means**

**Decontextualized from
the system’s goal**

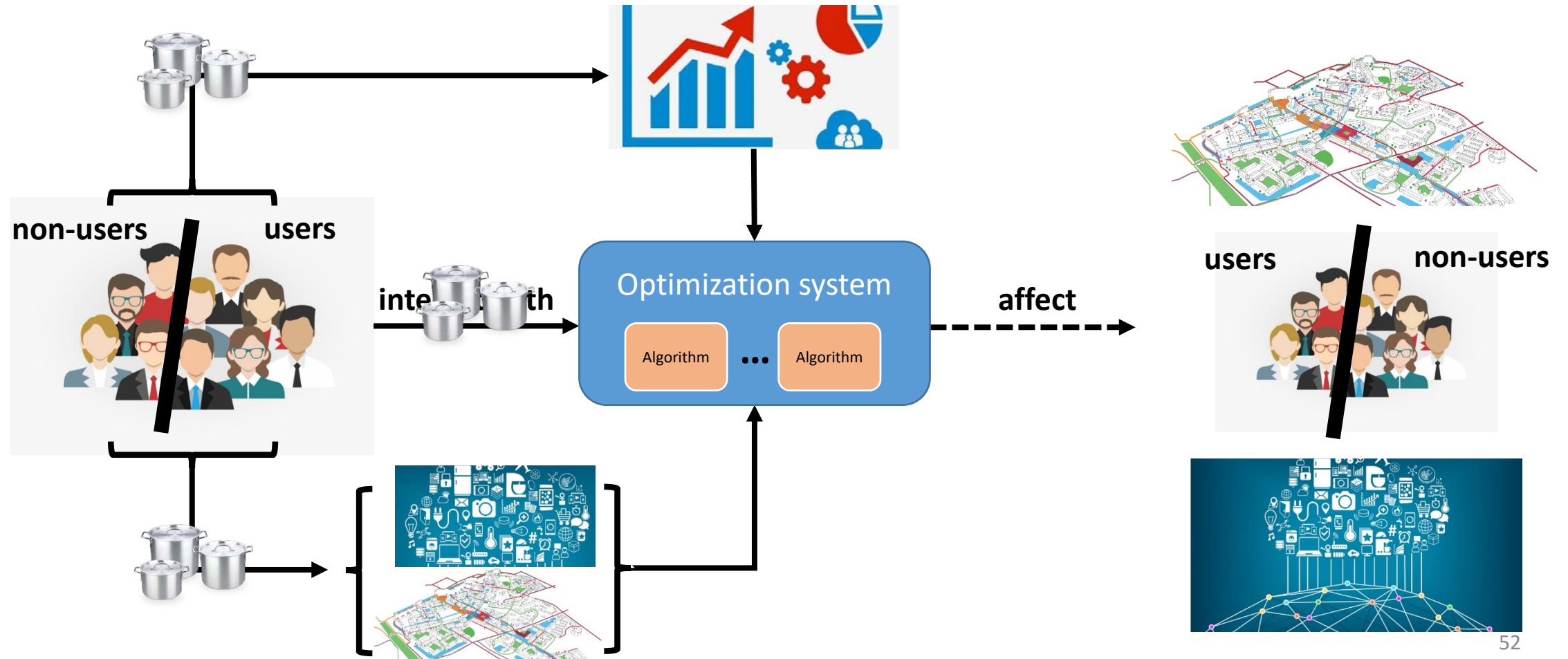
Ignores other harms

Wait! But we have fairness research!!



Protective Optimization Technologies (POTs)

Technologies aimed at mitigating externalities of optimization system's



Credit scoring



potential risk posed by lending money to consumers and to mitigate losses due to bad debt

Biased training data → Underlying algorithms can:

- discriminate applicants on protected attributes like gender or ethnicity
- cause feedback loops for populations disadvantaged by the financial system

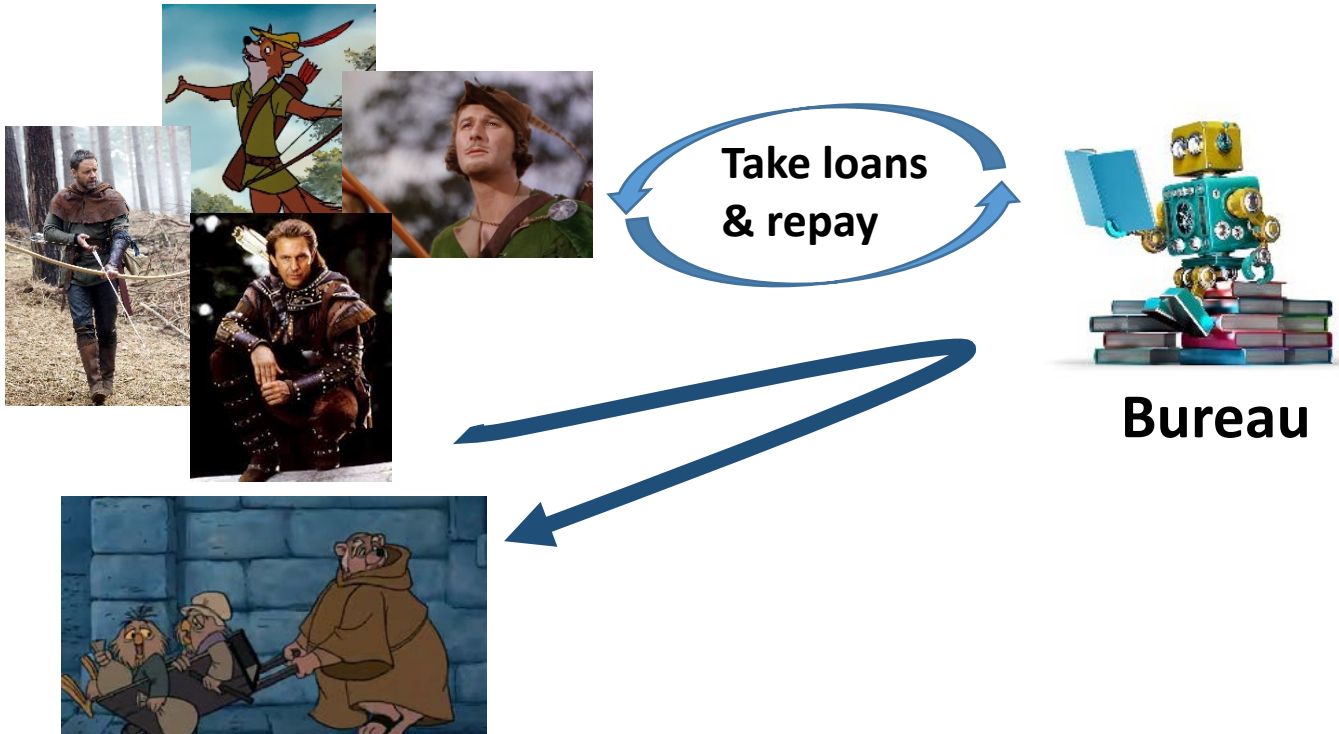


**Credit bureaus have little incentive to change
Fairness techniques are incipient and hard to deploy**

POTs for Credit scoring

- Enable users to help others get loans

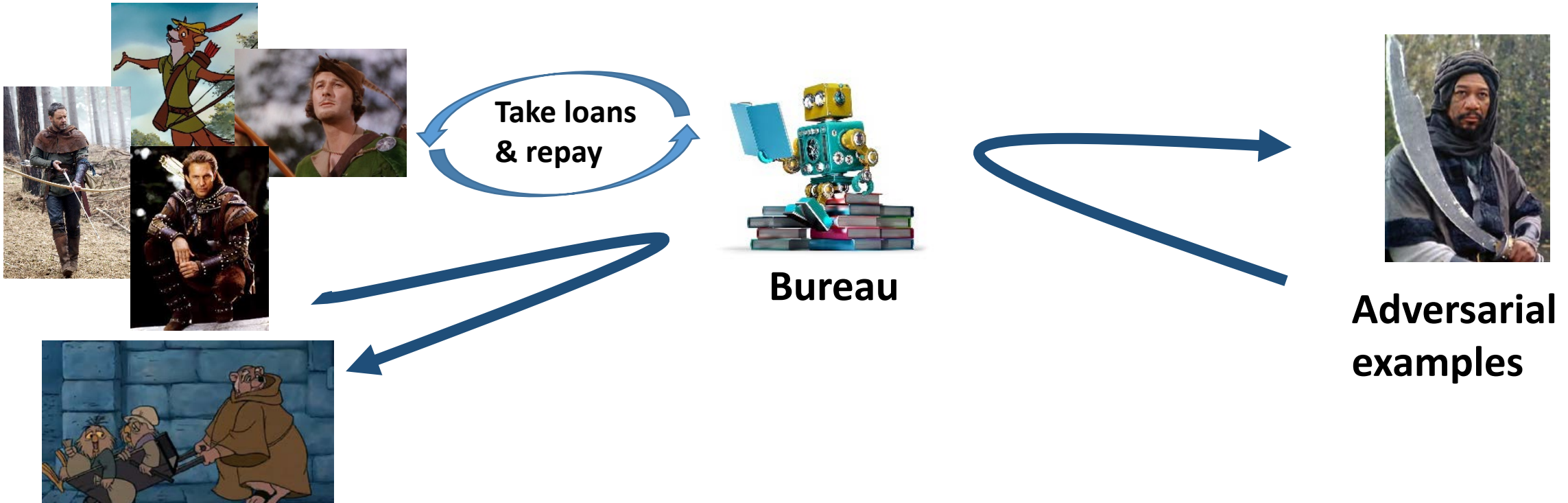
Poisoning



POTs for Credit scoring

- Enable users to help others get loans
- Enable discriminated users to get loans

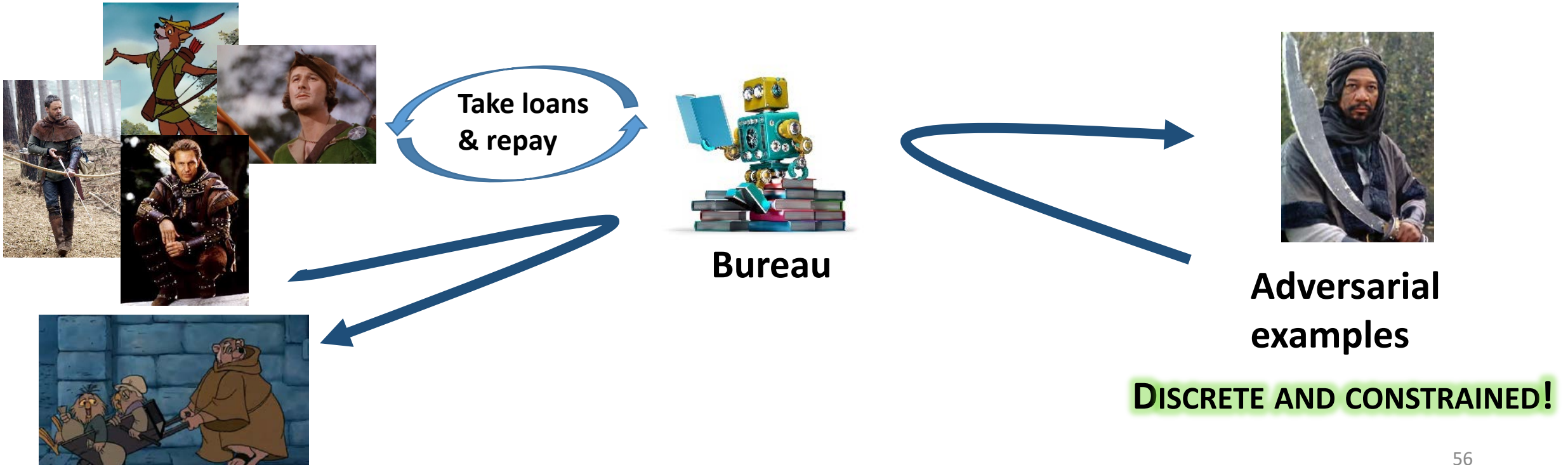
Poisoning



POTs for Credit scoring

- Enable users to help others get loans
- Enable discriminated users to get loans

Poisoning



Adversarial machine learning for social justice

- ✓ **There is a need to protect individuals beyond preserving their privacy**
- ✓ **Protective Optimization Technologies can be deployed to help individuals and groups to counter externalities**
- ✓ **POTs are also **CONSTRAINED** so the graphical approach can also be used as technique to **EFFICIENTLY** find **MINIMAL COST** adversarial examples**

A challenge ahead



Disparate vulnerability

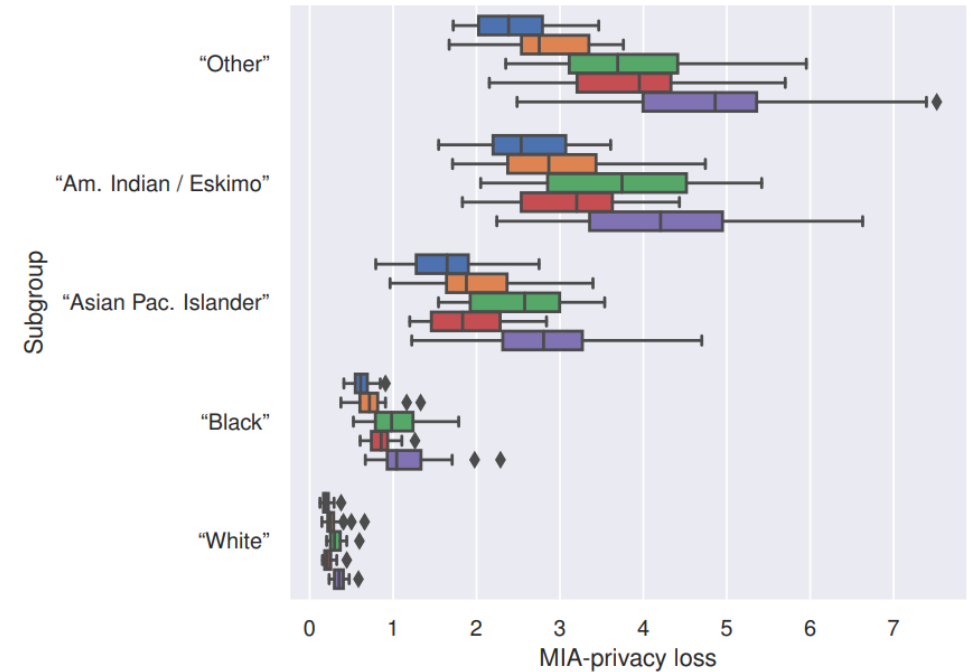
- Machine learning models inherit biases in the training
- Two Key implications
 - ML-based attacks are unfair
(like any ML-based model...)

Table 3: Classifier Performance
Category + Content(1K)

Sample	Gender	Precision	Recall	AUC	Accuracy
1	Male	0.817	0.754	0.784	0.750
	Female	0.667	0.744	0.76	
2	Male	0.727	0.615	0.681	0.630
	Female	0.528	0.651	0.666	
3	Male	0.849	0.692	0.802	0.741
	Female	0.636	0.814	0.756	
4	Male	0.733	0.704	0.776	0.704
	Female	0.596	0.791	0.728	
5	Male	0.704	0.769	0.674	0.667
	Female	0.595	0.512	0.709	

Disparate vulnerability

- Machine learning models inherit biases in the training
- Two Key implications
 - ML-based attacks are unfair
 - Attacks on ML-models are unfair!



Disparate vulnerability

- Is increased when defending ML models from other shortcomings

Privacy Risks of Securing Machine Learning Models against Adversarial Examples

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ABSTRACT

The arms race between attacks and defenses for machine learning models has come to a forefront in recent years, in both the security community and the privacy community. However, one big

[22]. Evasion attacks, also known as adversarial examples, perturb inputs at the test time to induce wrong predictions by the target model [4, 7, 15, 35, 51]. In contrast, poisoning attacks target the training process by maliciously modifying part of training data to

Privacy Risks of Explaining Machine Learning Models

Reza Shokri, Martin Strobel, Yair Zick
{reza,mstrobel,zick}@comp.nus.edu.sg
National University of Singapore

ABSTRACT

Can we trust black-box machine learning with its decisions? Can we trust algorithms to train machine learning models on sensitive data? Transparency and privacy are two fundamental elements of

Releasing additional information is a risky prospect from a privacy perspective; however, despite the widespread work on transparency measures, there has been little effort to address any privacy concerns that arise due to the release of transparency reports. This is where our work comes in

Disparate vulnerability

- Is increased when defending ML models from other shortcomings

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Disparate vulnerability

- And blanket defenses have disparate impact on utility!

Differential Privacy Has Disparate Impact on Model Accuracy

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Abstract

Differential privacy (DP) is a popular mechanism for training machine learning models with bounded leakage about the presence of specific points in the training data. The cost of differential privacy is a reduction in the model's accuracy. We

Universal design for protection technologies

We need to take into account attack's fairness when designing protections

- Is it possible to have secure accurate models with fair privacy?
 - Security vs. privacy trade-off?
 - More importantly: fair privacy at the cost of privacy?
- Are adversarial learning-based defenses immune to this issue?
 - If so, should they be our only way forward?
- Should fairness be a bullet in privacy by design beyond ML?

Takeaways

- Adversarial machine learning is hard to defend from: a great opportunity!

Adversarial machine learning as protective technologies for privacy (PETs) and social justice (POTs)

- New graphical framework to approach the search of adversarial examples
... we can use of graph theory to improve efficiency and provide guarantees
- The fairness problems of machine learning will become a hurdle for protection!

EPFL



<http://carmelatroncoso.com/>

<https://spring.epfl.ch/en>



<https://github.com/spring-epfl/>



Bogdan
Kulynych



Mohammad
Yaghini



Seda
Guerses



Rebekah
Overdorf



Ero
Balsa



Jamie
Hayes



Nikita
Samarin